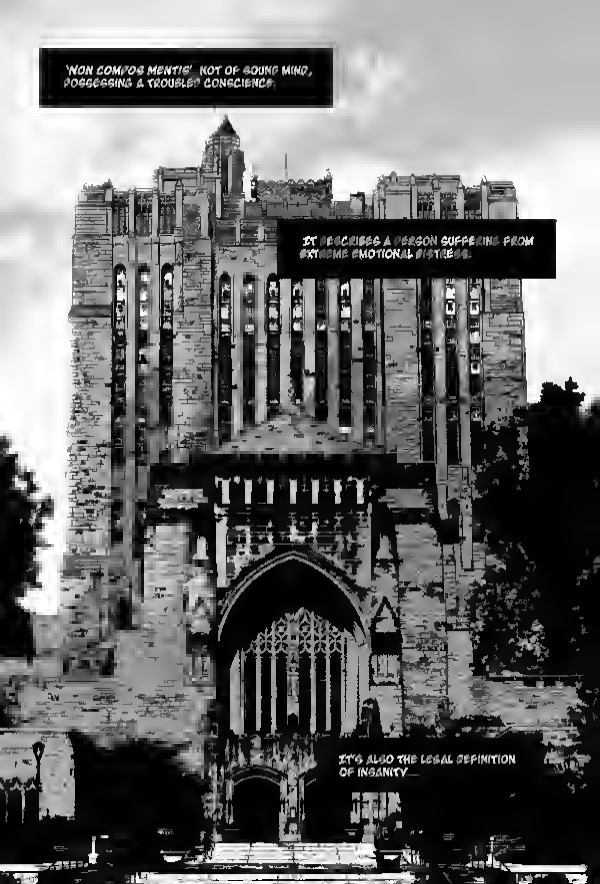
HOBSON'S
DEMONS
11
SIMON SUES
FILE 01


'NON COMPOS MENTIS' NOT OF SOUND MIND, POSSESSING A TROUBLED CONSCIENCE.
IT DESCRIBES A PERSON SUFFERING FROM EXTREME EMOTIONAL DISTRESS.
IT'S ALSO THE LEGAL DEFINITION OF INSANITY—

SO HOW CAN I PUT THIS...?
ALL THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME IN THE PAST TWO YEARS...
Sigh
WHAT HAPPENED TWO NIGHTS AGO...
I SHOULD BE PANICKED, DELIRIOUS, HYSTERICAL
REALITY SHOULD FEEL AS DISTANT AS THE DOORS RETREATING UP THESE STAIRS. BUT INSTEAD, I FEEL.

...NOTHING. AS IF MY ENTIRE SOUL HAS GONE COMPLETELY NUMB.
CREEK
IS THIS JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF INSANITY?
CREEK
HAVE I, SIMON SINCLAIR, FORMER OCCULT LAWYER, FINALLY GONE MAD?
YOU MAY GO IN NOW
SIMON THANK YOU FOR COMING
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A SEAT

"COUGH" THANK YOU, DEAN PROCTOR I PREFER TO STAND
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, SIMON
VSH
I'VE BEEN REVIEWING THESE CAMPUS SECURITY REPORTS AND YOUR NAME HAS COME UP WITH ALARMING FREQUENCY
THERE ARE OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS FILED FROM SEVERAL WELL-REGARDED STUDENTS
IN ADDITION, I MUST ASSUME YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE RECENT WRONGFUL DEATH SUIT AS WELL AS THE ONGOING POLICE INVESTIGATION INVOLVING A MISSING STUDENT
ONE WHO, I'VE BEEN INFORMED, WAS LAST SEEN IN YOUR COMPANY...

YOU MENTIONED WELL-REGARDED STUDENTS
I BELIEVE I HAVE THE RIGHT TO FACE THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE FILED COMPLAINTS
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ARGUE THAT ONE OF THE CHIEF PLAINTIFFS HAS VOLUNTEERED TO PRESENT HIS GRIEVANCES IN PERSON
MR. FONG... PLEASE COME FORWARD
CERTAINLY, DEAN PROCTOR.

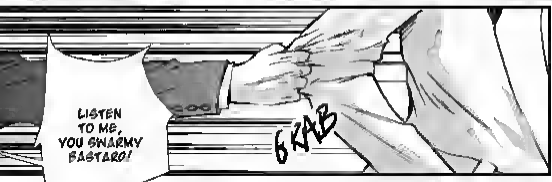
THIS MAN HAS HARASSED, THREATENED AND ATTACKED OUR SENIOR MEMBERS
HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS EVENTS ON CAMPUS THAT HAVE ENDANGERED THE WELFARE OF OUR STUDENTS
AND I BELIEVE HE AND HIS ACCOMPLICE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT ARSON AT GELMAN CENTER.
AS FOR OUR ARRANGEMENT, DEAN PROCTOR SIGMA ALPHA PSI LOOKS TO YOU TO DEAL WITH THIS CRIMINAL
...
SIMON, I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR MANY YEARS NOW

I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND YOURSELF
PLEASE, FOR YOUR SAKE, SAY SOMETHING THAT MIGHT EXONERATE YOU OF THESE CHARGES
I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED SUCH A BRILLIANT AND ENGAGING STUDENT. BUT IN THIS LIGHT ..
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY NOR DO I WISH TO DEFEND MYSELF. I AM BOUND BY STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY
WHAT I WILL ADMIT TO, HOWEVER, IS AN EXPERT OPINION REGARDING MR. FONG'S DUBIOUS AND FREAK-LIKE CHARACTER
THANK YOU, MR. SINCLAIR! I BELIEVE YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF PLAIN
SINCE YOU REFUSE TO OFFER A DEFENSE, YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.
I'M FILING A RESTRAINING ORDER BARRING YOU FROM CAMPUS.

IF YOU FAIL TO OBEY MY ORDER, I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS A UNIVERSITY MATTER...
Even if I hadn't gleaned the effect of Tiger's Bone in his eyes, I'd still recognize a lost cause
These last two years, lost...
Not a single one!
Grr
STEP
STEP
STEP
ALEX FONG! STOP!

I KNOW YOU WERE THERE WHEN SARAH DIED.
YOU AND YOUR CRAZY FIEND-WORSHIPPING FRAT HOUSE!
OH PLEASE! MORE OFFICIAL C.O.A.P BUSINESS? IS THIS GOING TO END WITH YOU GETTING KICKED TO THE CURB AGAIN?
I WONDER WHY SUCH A 'BRILLIANT' MIND DIDN'T THINK BEFORE PIGGING OFF A HOUSE FULL OF WELL CONDITIONED, OVER INDULGED FRAT BOYS?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD DIRECT YOUR ANGER WHERE IT BELONGS. WHO WAS IT THAT DRAGGED YOUR FRIEND INTO THIS GAME?

AND THEN THE FIRE? THAT WAS REALLY YOU, WASN'T IT?
MANSLAUGHTER, ARSON AND NOW I HEAR RECKLESS ABANDONMENT TOO REMIND ME AGAIN WHO'S THE VILLIAN HERE?
AT LEAST OUR VICTIMS HAD A CHOICE. RIGHT? SEEMS YOUR CLIENTS HAD NO IDEA WHO THEY WERE PUTTING THEIR FAITH IN
GAY! WITH ALL THE FREE TIME YOU HAVE NOW, YOU REALLY OUGHTA DO SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE WITH THE SCRAPS OF LIFE YOU HAVE LEFT
OTHERWISE YOU'RE JUST A VENGEFUL GHOST HAUNTING THE REST OF US.


LISTEN TO ME, YOU SWARMY BASTARD!
GRAB

I STILL HAVE ONE CLIENT LEFT AND I'M GOING TO CLIMB THROUGH THE TRENCHES OF HELL ITSELF TO WIN HIS CASE
ONCE I'M FINISHED WITH THAT, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK HERE, PROTECTING THE STUDENTS OF HAVERSFORD FROM YOU

PFT! GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!

I WOULDN'T BE SO QUICK TO TURN YOUR BACK ON ME!
YOU THINK YOU'RE IN CONTROL OF THIS GAME? YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE PIECES!
ONE IN PARTICULAR IS GOING TO JUST LOVE DEALING WITH YOU SILVER-SPOONED CULTIST BRATS.
COMPARED TO YOUR FRATERNITY, THERE ARE MUCH BIGGER, BADDER SECRET ORGANIZATIONS OUT THERE.

AND WHEN THEY DROP BY FOR SOME HEAVY DUTY CLEANUP
I'LL BE SURE TO POINT THEM IN YOUR PRECISE DIRECTION.

bep
bep
bep
bep
GE
JUNE
EVEN THE HOURS SEEM AGAINST ME
beep
slump

HEY JUNE
YOU'LL PROBABLY KILL ME FOR HAVING THIS HEART TO HEART WHILE YOU'RE STUCK IN BED
AND UNCONSCIOUS
BUT YOU WERE RIGHT I AM TERRIBLE AT THESE THINGS
RACHEL'S OH HER WAY, YOU KNOW SHE TOLD ME EVERYTHING ALL THE SECRETS I WAS TOO BUSY TO LISTEN TO
YOU'RE GOING TO BEAT THIS, JUNE I PROMISE JUST LIKE YOU USED TO BEAT UP THE BULLIES TWICE YOUR AGE

OF COURSE, A REMINDER FROM ME EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE WOULDN'T HURT.
THAT'S WHY I MADE YOU AN EARLY BIRTH-DAY PRESENT IT'S USING MY PATENTED STICKY NOTE TECHNIQUE.

YOU KNOW, IN CASE YOUR BROTHER IS INCAPACITATED BECAUSE HE HAD ANOTHER MELTDOWN.

AT LEAST NOW YOU KNOW MY SECRET TOO
I WAS GOING TO HELL IN A HANDBASKET, LITERALLY THAT'S WHY I DID MY BEST TO SHUT EVERYONE OUT.

SEE HOW WELL THAT WORKED OUT FOR YOU?

AFTER 90 OCCULT CASES, YOU'D THINK I GET IT RIGHT
INSTEAD, I GOT AN INNOCENT GIRL MURDERED, RENEGED ON MY WORD AND LET ISAAC BE TAKEN
ALL THIS TIME I SAW MYSELF AS THE BOUND ONE, NOT THE FIENDS UNDER MY SUMMONS
THEN THAT BRAT HAD TO GO AROUND AND GIVE ME BACK MY FREEDOM
YOU ARE BOTH FREE.
AND YET...

KINK
AM I REALLY FREE...?
SIMON...
HAA
YOU'RE DAD CAN'T HURT YOU ANYMORE..
I-I DID IT

I
saved
us.
ping
!

rrrr

No more
games,
whoever you are
This time you go
through me.

SIMON, THERE ISN'T A SINGLE REASON I CAN THINK OF WHY YOU SHOULD TRUST ME. ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU HEAR THIS SO YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO SAVE HER.
JUNE TALKED A LOT ABOUT YOU. I THINK I GET HOW MUCH YOU NEEDED EACH OTHER.
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN AND HEARD, I KNOW YOU WON'T EVER BACK DOWN. I ALSO KNOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVES PEOPLE FROM THEIR WORST MISTAKES.
PEOPLE LIKE ME AND JUNE.
WHA- WHAT IS THIS...?
JUNE!
I FUCKING TRUSTED YOU! YOU KNOW HOW HARD THAT WAS FOR ME!? DO YOU HAVE A FUCKING CLUE!?
NOW YOU'RE USING MY LIFE STORY AS PART OF SOME FUCKING JOKE?!
SOME SICK PRANK YOU AND YOUR GRITHEAD FRAT BROTHERS MADE UP?

JUNE! I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH BECAUSE I LOVE YOU!
I HATE YOU!
YOU CAN HATE ME ALL YOU WANT, YOUR BROTHER'S STILL GOING TO DIE
I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT THIS IS FOR REAL! BY MAKING A CONTRACT YOU CAN CHANGE SIMON'S FATE
IT'S A SECOND CHANCE TO SAVE YOUR BROTHER ISN'T THAT WORTH THE RISK OF BEING LIED TO?

YOU ASSHOLE I'M SUPPOSE' TA BELIEVE WHATEVEE YOU SAY BECAUSE WE FUCKED?
BECAUSE THAT MEANS YOU KNOW ME? YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I WANT?
YOU DON'T KNOW DICK ABOUT ME OR MY BROTHER!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
YOU DON'T OWE ME YOUR STORY, JUNE.
JUST LISTEN TO MINE THEN DECIDE WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU
SIMON'S IN TROUBLE WITH THE WRONG PEOPLE
THERE'S NO QUESTION THEY'LL KILL HIM AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING

BUT IF YOU MAKE THIS DEAL, YOU CAN SAVE HIM AND YOURSELF.
SAVE MYSELF... YOU MEAN THE MONSTER INSIDE MY HEAD
THE REASON FOR THE NIGHTMARES. FOR MY DARKEST FEAR.
THAT I'LL LOSE MYSELF AND BECOME THE MONSTER. DO HORRIBLE THINGS JUST LIKE.
JUST LIKE!

JUST LIKE!
I TRIED TO FIGHT IT, BUT I CAN ONLY DROWN MYSELF IN SUNLIGHT, UNTIL IT BURNS MY EYES...
THAT'S WHAT I WANT. A LIGHT THAT CAN TAKE AWAY ALL MY MEMORIES OF THAT DAY.
BURN THEM AWAY, LIKE PAPER IN THE SUN.

JUNE, LISTEN! THIS THING WILL ERASE ALL THE SCREWED -UP MEMORIES, LIKE I PROMISED
BUT YOU CAN NEVER WANT THEM BACK, EVEN FOR A SPLIT SECOND. YOU CAN'T EVER REGRET LOSING THEM.
THAT'S-
THAT'S ALL .. I'M FINISHED
BEN...
IT'S OKAY. I HEARD YOU SIMON WILL DIE IF I DON'T DO THIS
SO I'M GONNA MAKE A DEAL AND SAVE HIM

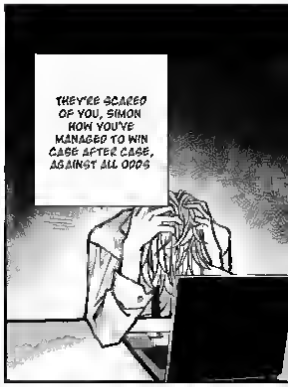
JUST REMEMBER IF YOU FUCK WITH ME, I CAN GET PRETTY CREATIVE WITH POWER TOOLS
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, JUNE
OKAY, YOU SAID WE HAVE TO DRIVE SOMEWHERE FIRST?
BEN...?

BEN, DID YOU HEAR M-
AAH!

HAAAH!
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HIM MAKE A HUMAN CONTRACT BEFORE?
HE TAKES OUT A LITTLE OF YOUR SOUL AND MIXES TOGETHER HIS DEMON FILTH BEFORE PUTTING IT RIGHT BACK IN
I SWEAR! I SWEAR I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BE LIKE THAT!

BUT THE TRUTH IS I'M THE REAL MURDERER... I KILLED YOUR SISTER WITH THE MEMORY OF HER MOTHER.
I'M SO SORRY, SIMON! SORRY FOR EVERYTHING!
I'LL LEAVE MY PUNISHMENT UP TO YOU IN THE MEANTIME, I HOPE I CAN BEGIN PAYING FOR MY CRIMES WITH THIS
IT'S A FILE I COPIED FROM ONE OF THE OFFICERS' LAPTOP THE SAME ONE THEY TOOK OFF YOUR FRIEND AT GELMAN LAB
SHE DIED WHILE TRYING TO GET IT TO YOU
Sarah...

IT'S ENCRYPTED SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE. I JUST KNOW YOU WEREN'T MEANT TO FIND IT


THEY'RE SCARED OF YOU, SIMON. HOW YOU'VE MANAGED TO WIN CASE AFTER CASE, AGAINST ALL ODDS

Damn it...

What he did to June was no different than when he lured me into that courtroom.
At this point, what's left to call human?
He looks like a kid but underneath lurks a wrathful fiend vessel.
Everything calculated..
Everything feigned.

Everything
Except...
!
That
Smile.
That utterly
blissful smile.
I always
thought it
meant he was
glad to die.
But now that
I think of it,
it wasn't
death he was
smiling at.
It was
saying
goodbye.

SIMON, THERE'S ONE LAST THING I NEED TO TELL YOU...

crumple
HAPPY
-simon
tug
FIGHTING IS THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN BE FREE